

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1309

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OEXC, RO  
SUBJ: DHEW/MINHLTH EXCHANGE (DR. OLTEANU)

REF: A) STATE 283146 B) BUCHAREST 5840

1. BEGIN UNCLASS. EMBASSY APPRECIATES POSSIBILITY OF STRAINING  
GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN DHEW AND INSTITUTIONS HOSTING ROMANIAN EXCHANGE

SCIENTISTS WITH INADEQUATE KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH (REF A).SMITH LETTER

TO MINHLTH DECEMBER 19 (REF B, PARA 2) WAS INTENDED TO CAUTION  
MINHLTH ABOUT SUCH DIFFICULTIES. AFTER DISCUSSING PROPOSED ITINERARY  
WITH OLTEANU, EMBASSY HAS FOLLOWING COMMENTS FOR DHEW CONSIDERATION.

2. A) OLTEANU TECHNICALLY HAS NOT PASSED ENGLISH EXAM, BUT CAN  
ADEQUATELY GET ALONG IN GENERAL CONVERSATION WITHOUT TRANSLATOR  
AND HE COMMANDS EXTENSIVE VOCABULARY IN HIS SPECIALITY.  
B) OBJECTIVE DURING EXCHANGE VISIT, POORLY EXPRESSED IN MINHLTH  
NOMINATION, IS TO WORK PRINCIPALLY WITH DR. C. DOHLMAN AND  
DR. SCHEPENS AT HARVARD TO SHARE APPLIED EXPERIENCE IN LATEST  
SURGICAL METHODS AND TECHNIQUES OF CORNEAL SURGERY (KERATHOPLASTICS  
AND KERATHOPROTHESIS), OPHTHALMOLOGICAL PLASTIC SURGERY, AND SURGICAL  
AND LASER TREATMENT OF DETACHED RETINA. WE UNDERSTAND BOTH  
DOHLMAN AND SCHEPENS SPEAK FLUENT FRENCH, AS DOES OLTEANU.  
OLTEANU MET BOTH MEN AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS ALTHOUGH HAS  
NOT CORRESPONDED BEYOND EXCHANGE OF CHRISTMAS CARDS. ROMANIAN  
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SOURCES DESCRIBE OLTEANU AS WORLD-CLASS SURGEON IN HIS FIELD.

3. OLTEANU HAD EXPECTED TO BEGIN US VISIT IN OCTOBER BUT AT THAT TIME LEARNED NOMINATION HAD NOT EVEN BEEN FORWARDED TO DHEW. DELAY PROBABLY EXPLAINED BY GENERAL BUREAUCRATIC DISRUPTION CAUSED BY WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE, PERSONNEL TURNOVER IN MINISTRY'S INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, AND PHYSICAL RELOCATION OF MINISTRY IN NEW BUILDING. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN LOU. RECENT BARRAGE OF HIGH LEVEL PRESSURE ON EMBASSY TO EXPEDITE THIS NOMINATION REFLECTS FACT THAT HARD-CURRENCY EXPENDITURES FOR VISIT WERE PERSONALLY APPROVED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CHAIRMAN (PRIME MINISTER) MANEA MANESCU AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHEORGHE RADULESCU. OLTEANU ALSO HAS COMMITMENTS WHICH REQUIRE RETURN TO ROMANIA BY EARLY MAY. WE SPECULATE CASE RECEIVING UNUSUAL ATTENTION BECAUSE OLTEANU PERFORMED SUCCESSFUL EYE SURGERY ON COUNCIL OF STATE VICE PRESIDENT EMIL BODNARAS. END LOU.

5. BEGIN UNCLASS. OLTEANU HAS FEAR OF AIR TRAVEL SO US ARRIVAL DATE MUST BE GEARED TO TRAIN AND SHIP SCHEDULES. HE REPORTS TRAVEL FUNDS MAY BE USED THROUGH JANUARY WITHOUT REAPPROPRIATION. HE IS PREPARED TO ELIMINATE CLEVELAND AND NEW YORK VISITS FROM PROPOSED ITINERARY AND SPEND ENTIRE 12-WEEK PERIOD IN BOSTON.

6. SCIATT WILL DISCUSS APPLICATION PROCEDURES, DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS, LANGUAGE TESTS AND TIMING OF NOMINATIONS WITH MINHLTH ALONG LINES OF REF A AS MINISTRY'S FOREIGN RELATIONS PERSONNEL SEEM TO LACK APPRECIATION OF PRACTICAL CONCERNS IN ARRANGING SCIENTIFIC ITINERARIES IN THE US. MEANWHILE, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS EARLY RECONSIDERATION OF OLTEANU NOMINATION IF ACCEPTABLE TO DR. DOHLMAN AND SCHEPENS AND DHEW. IN ORDER TO CALM WATERS SURROUNDING OLTEANU'S VARIOUS ISLANDS OF SUPPORT, WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY AS SOON AS FEASIBLE.

BARNES

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